

# Transcription<sup>1</sup>

[April 20/30 1665. Certificate. That sundry grants of land, near Stuyvesant's bouwery, had been made in the years 1659 and 1660 to divers negroes' with the names of said negroes and a description of their lands.]<sup>2</sup>

[10<sup>3</sup>:329]<sup>3</sup>

**[Approximately 15 lines lost from upper half of page]**

hebbe goetgevonden soodanige separate [ ]  
Combinatie ende byeenwoonungen intetrecken [ ]  
oock de onderstaende Negroes inden Jaere 16[ ]  
1660 geordonneert ende gelast tot haerder beeter[ ]  
verseeckeringe haere separaete Woningen aftebreeck[ ]  
deselve met de bequaemste gelegentheyt te fon[ ]  
ende te stellen Langs de gemeene Heere Wegh, omtre[ ]  
des Heeren Generaels Bouwerye ende tot dien eynd[ ]  
aende ondergeschreven in vryen ende waeren eygendom, ver[ ]  
ende gegeven volgende perceelen lants welcke lan[ ]  
sedert dien tyt by haer syn gesuyvert bearbeyt ende [ ]  
onse voorkennisse ende ordre ongemolesteert syn gepo[ ]  
ende beseeten. In kennisse der waerheyt hebben desen [ ]  
eygener hant onderteekent. Actum opt Eylant  
Manhatans ady desen 20/30 April 1665.

P

Stuyvesant

Ten Eersten is Vergunt en gegeven aen Christoffel  
Santome, een Perceeltjen Lants geteeckent No.[1]  
breet Langhs het Wagenpat tweendertigh roe[ ]  
Langh aende Suyt syde, Langhs het Lant van A[ ]  
Sopie, Ses en veertigh Roe aghter aende Westsyde[ ]  
negenendertigh Roe, aende Noort syde, Langs het  
Lant van Manuel de Ros, achtendertigh Roeden  
Verte

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<sup>1</sup> The transcription and translation were made by Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, New York State Library, from the original in the New York State Archives.

<sup>2</sup> This document description is taken from E. B. O'Callaghan's *Calendar of Dutch Historical Manuscripts*, (Albany, 1865). As it was recorded before the 1911 State Library fire, it is the only textual information we have on this badly damaged document.

<sup>3</sup> This number indicates that the document is in volume 10, part 3 of the New York Colonial Manuscripts held by the New York State Archives; the document pages are 329-332.

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lants geteeckent No 3 breed Langs [ ]  
Seventien roeden, Langh aende Suyt [ ]  
tlant van Manuel de Ros negenendertig[ ]  
aghter aende west syde seventien roeden, [ ]  
syde Langs het Lant van Salamon Pieter[ ]  
endartigh roeden.

Aen Salomon Pieters is vergunt en ge[ ]  
Perceeltje Lants, geteeckent No: 4 breed [ ]  
wagenpat Tweentwintigh roe, aende Zuytsyde [ ]  
Lant van Luycas Pieters driensestigh ro[ ]  
aende Westsy negentien roe, aende Noort syd[ ]  
het Lant van Otto Grim sesenveertigh roeden.

No:5 is Het Lant van Otto Grim, waer van [ ]  
grontbrief apart is gepasseert.

Aen Francisco Cartagena is vergunt en gegeve[ ]  
Perceeltye Lants geteeckent No:6 breed [ ]  
Het waegen Pat elf en een Halve roe [ ]  
Zuytsyde Langs het Lant van Otto Grim [ ]  
Vierenveertigh roede, achter aende Westsyde [ ]  
roede, aende Noortsyde Langs Het Lant [ ]  
veertigh roe.

Aen Assento is vergunt een Perceeltie Lant  
geteeckent No:7 breed langs Het Wagen Padt [ ]  
roe, aende Zuytsyde langs Het Lant van Fra[ ]  
Cartagena veertigh roede, after aende westsyde [ ]  
Vyftien roe, aende Noortsyde Langs Het Lant V[ ]  
Manuel Pieters, achtentwintigh roeden.  
V[ ]

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[ ] Willem Antonys [ ]  
een Perceeltjen Lants geteeckent No:9 [ ]  
Het wagenpat, vierendertige roede, aende zuytsy[ ]  
Het Lant van Domingo Angola ende Cristina seventig[ ]  
aghter aende westsyde eenendertigh roeden, aend[ ]  
syde Langs de tuyne van Groote Manuel, Manuel  
Sanders, en Claes de Neger seventigh roeden.

Aen Groote Manuel, is vergunt een Perceeltje l[ ]  
tot huys en tuyn geteeckent No:10 breed Lan[ ]  
Het wagenpat, sestien roe, ten suyden Langs het La[ ]  
van Willem Portugies acht roeden, ten westen  
Langs Manuel Sanders sestien roe, ten noorden  
langs de dwars wegh acht roe.

Aen Manuel Sanders, is vergunt en gegev[ ]  
een Perceeltje Lants tot huys en thuyne geteeck[ent No:]  
11 Is ten oosten Langs de Thuyne van Groote Manuel  
Sestien roe, ten suyden langs het Lant van Will[ ]  
Antonys negen roe ten westen Langs het Lant [ ]  
Claes de Neger sestien roe, ten Noorden [lan]gs [de]  
dwars wegh Negen Roe.

Aen Claes de Neger vergunt een Perceeltje Lants [ ]  
Huys en thuyne geteeckent No:12 Is ten Oosten langs  
de Thuyne van Manuel Sanders sestien Roe, ten suyd[ ]  
langs het Lant van Willem Portugees Negen Roeden  
ten Westen Sestien roe, ten Noorden Langs de dwars  
Wegh Negen Roeden.

Verte

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[ ] Huys en thuyne geteeckent No:[ ]  
suyden langs de dwars wegh dertien en [ ]  
ten Westen langs Anthony de Blinde Neg[ ]  
Roe, aghter ten noorden langs het lant [ ]  
Cousyn Gerrits, dertien en een halff roe, [ ]  
langs de thuyne van Pieter Tamboer, veer[ ]

Aen Pieter Tamboer is vergunt en gegeve[ ]  
Perceeltje Lants tot Huys en Thuyne getee[ ]  
No:15 ten suyden langs de dwars wegh d[ ]  
een Halve roe, ten westen Langs de thuyne va[ ]  
Angola veertien roe, achter langhs t'lant v[ ]  
Gerrits derthien en een Halve roe, ten oosten [ ]  
Het wagepat, veertien roe.

Alle welcke Perceelen Lants aende gemelde Neg[ ]  
gegeven in een waere en vryen eygendom met sooda[ ]  
Privelegien als alle Landeryen aende Ingeseten[ ]  
Proventie syn vergeven. In oirconde desen get[ ]  
Actum opt Eylant Manhatans ady 20/30 April [ ]

P

Stuyvesant

# Translation

[10<sup>3</sup>:329]

[Stuyvesant's certification that certain blacks had been granted land near his farm in the years 1659 and 1660, with abstracts of their deeds]

[**Approximately 15 lines lost from upper half of page**]

I decided to pull in such isolated groups and settlements<sup>1</sup> [ ] Also, in the years 16[59], I ordered and commanded the Negroes listed below to take down their isolated dwellings for their own improved security [ ] to establish and erect the same along the common highway near the honorable general's farm.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, the following parcels of land were granted and given to the underwritten in free and true ownership, which land they have cleared and cultivated since this time, and they have owned and possessed unmolested [ ] our prior knowledge and orders. In acknowledgement of the truth I have signed this with my own hand. Done at the island of Manhattan on this 20/30 April 1665.<sup>3</sup>

P

Stuyvesant

First, Christoffel Santome has been granted and given a small parcel of land marked no.1; in width along the wagon road, thirty-two rods; in length at the south side along the land of A[ ] Sopic, forty-six rods; at the back on the west side, thirty-nine rods; on the north side along the land of Manuel *de Ros*,<sup>4</sup> thirty-eight rods

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<sup>1</sup> This was a policy instituted by Stuyvesant as early as 1656 to protect outlying and isolated settlers from possible Indian attack.

<sup>2</sup> Stuyvesant's farm or *bouwerie* was at the present location of the Bowery in Manhattan. Stuyvesant retired to his farm after the English takeover and is buried at St. Mark's church. He died in 1672, one year before New York was retaken by the Dutch, at the age of sixty-two.

<sup>3</sup> The double date is used because the English were still using the Julian calendar, which was ten days behind the Gregorian calendar in use by the Dutch since 1568.

<sup>4</sup> This Manuel was originally the servant of Gerrit de Reux, who was most likely a Huguenot from the canton of Reux in northwestern France. Reux also appears with the variant spelling Reus. In earlier documents Manuel is referred to as Manuel de Gerrit de Reux, i.e. Manuel of Gerrit de Reux. Apparently he was asked to adopt a surname to distinguish himself from Manuel Sanders, Manuel Pieters, and *Groote* Manuel. He chose or was given the family name of his former owner Gerrit de Reus, which appears in this document as de Ros.

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land marked no.3; in width along [ ], seventeen rods; in length on the south [ ] land of Manuel *de Ros*, thirty-nine [ ]; at the back on the west side. seventeen rods; [ ] side along the land of Salamon Pieters thirty-[ ] rods.

To Salomon Pieters was granted and given a small parcel of land marked no.4; in width [along the ] wagon road, twenty-two rods; on the south side [ ] the land of Luycas Pieters, sixty-three rods; on the west side, nineteen rods; on the north side [ ] the land of Otto Grim, forty-six rods.

No.5 is the land of Otto Grim, whose patent was confirmed separately.

To Francisco Cartagena was granted and given [a] small parcel of land marked no.6; in width [ ] the wagon road, eleven and a half rods; [ ] south side along the land of Otto Grim, forty-four rods; at the back on the west side [ ] rods; on the north side along the land [ ], forty rods.

To Assento was granted a small parcel of land marked no.7; in width along the wagon road, [ ] rods; on the south side along the land of Fra[ ] Cartagena, forty rods; at the back on the west side, fifteen rods; on the north side along the land of Manuel Pieters, twenty-eight rods.

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[ ] Willem Antonys [ ] a small parcel of land marked no.9 [ ] the wagon road, thirty-four rods; on the south side [ ] the land of Domingo Angola and Cristina, seventy rods; on the west side, thirty-one rods; on the [ ] side along the garden of *Groote* Manuel,<sup>1</sup> Manuel Sanders, and Claes de Neger, seventy rods.

To *Groote* Manuel was granted a small parcel of land for house and garden marked no.10; in width along the wagon road, sixteen rods; on the south along the land of Willem Portugies, eight rods; on the west along Manuel Sanders, sixteen rods; on the north along the cross road, eight rods.

To Manuel Sanders was granted and given a small parcel of land for house and garden marked no.11; on the east along the garden of *Groote* Manuel, sixteen rods; on the south along the land of Willem Anthonys, nine rods; on the west along the land of Claes *de Neger*,<sup>2</sup> sixteen rods; on the north along the cross road, nine rods.

To Claes *de Neger* [was] granted a small parcel of land for house and garden marked no.12; on the east along the garden of Manuel Sanders, sixteen rods; on the south along the land of Willem Portugees, nine rods; on the west, sixteen rods; on the north along the cross road, nine rods.

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<sup>1</sup> Big Manuel

<sup>2</sup> Claes the Negro

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[ ] house and garden marked no.[14]; on the south along the cross road, thirteen and [ ]; on the west along Anthony *de Blinde Neg[er]*<sup>1</sup>[ ] rods; at the back on the north along the land [of] Cousyn Gerrits, thirteen and half rods; [ ] along the garden of Pieter Tamboer, four[teen rods].

To Pieter Tamboer was granted and given [a] small parcel of land for house and garden marked no.15; on the south along the cross road thirteen [and] a half rods; on the west along the garden of Angola, fourteen rods; at the back along the land of Gerrits thirteen and a half rods; on the east [ ] the wagon path, fourteen rods.

All of these parcels of land were given to the aforesaid Negroes in true and free ownership with such privileges as all tracts of land are bestowed on the inhabitants [of this] province. In testimony thereof, this [ ] Done on the island of Manhattan, 20/30 April [1665].

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<sup>1</sup> Manuel the blind Negro